

### **Risk Assessments: What's the Difference???**

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The Text Box below is designed for use, when appropriate, on Portland Harbor fact sheets to help the public understand the difference between Public Health Assessments (PHAs) and Risk Assessments (RAs). It also helps to ensure that we have a consistent message that we can all agree on.

#### **Risk Assessments: What's the Difference???**

**Public Health Assessments (PHAs) are performed by Health Departments and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to help the public avoid existing risks.**

- Evaluates exposures and impacts to public health of chemicals and pathogens in the environment.
- Identifies likely exposure pathways and potentially exposed populations.
- Recommends ways for the public to prevent or reduce exposure.

**Risk Assessments (RAs) are performed for Environmental Agencies to determine clean-up levels that will reduce or eliminate risks.**

- Provides an understanding of potential human health and ecological risks posed by a contaminated site.
- Identifies likely exposure pathways and potentially exposed populations.
- Evaluates potential effects on sensitive populations and ecosystems.